Annual Report

Westhampton
Massachusetts

1998

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

TOWN OFFICERS

TOWN
OF
WESTHAMPTON

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1998

IN MEMORIAM

FRANK B. MONTAGUE
1925-1999

Frank was a lifetime resident of our community. With a varied career that included farming, serving as a Town official in many capacities, and working for our highway department and the Hampshire Regional School, Frank touched many lives throughout the years. He will be missed by all.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Our town government successfully looked after the Town's common interests for another year through the efforts of many boards, committees and officers. We thank them all for their efforts and urge others to take an active interest in helping to manage the Town, a largely volunteer activity.

As of January 1, 1998, the Board of Selectmen consisted of Chairman Lydia Omasta, Roy Van Driesche, and Jim O'Connor, Clerk. Margaret Parsons continued as the Selectmen's secretary, without whose efforts the whole process would rapidly fall apart. Thanks, Margie! The Board continued to hold its meetings on alternate Mondays at 7:00 in the Town Hall.

1. GRANTS RECEIVED.

(a) The Tax Base Balancing Grant. In January, the Town signed the contract with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission to help the town carry out the activities proposed in the grant. A Town committee was formed to work with the Commission.
(b) Separately, the Town received a Housing and Community Development grant through the Town of Huntington.
(c) A agreement was signed with the Hilltown Community Development Corporation to continue to oversee the septic tank repair grants program.
(d) Rich Pederson presented the Town with a check for $160 in appreciation for use of the Town Hall for basketball.

2. CONTRIBUTION TO THE BELL TOWER:

The Board voted to pay $200 to the Bell Tower to cover costs of publishing news of Town business.

3. LANDFILL AND TRASH RELATED ISSUES:

Transfer Station:
The Board of Health met with the Board several times to provide information about the pros and cons of developing a transfer station to deal with trash in Town after the landfill is closed. Construction was later approved by special Town meeting and by end of the year, the new facility was well on the way to being completed

thanks to the Highway Department Superintendent and crew.

Capping The Landfill: A Scope of Services agreement was signed in January with the firm of Dufresne Henry to help the Town plan both the landfill closure and to apply for permits to run a transfer station. The Board voted to place a article on the Town Meeting warrant for a debt exclusion for capping the landfill. This question was later approved by Town vote. A contract was let with the firm Eirco, selling to them the right to deposit construction and demolition debris in the landfill in exchange for a cash payment and work at the site that would shape the pile for capping. Subsequent requests from Erico to increase the height of the pile or use contaminated materials as daily cover (within state approved limits) were presented to the Board, but upon receipt of input in a public hearing against these proposals, both were denied. Erico completed work at the site, but has refused to pay the balance of funds owed to the Town, claiming basis exist for a suit against the Town with respect to the details provided in the bid document. To date, no suit has been filed, but the Board is consulting with Town lawyers to assess the Town's options.

4. AMBULANCE SERVICE CHANGES:

The Board, when presented with a request from the Town of Southampton to increase the charge to Westhampton of ambulance service from $2000 to $2500, voted to investigate alternative sources of service. After several rounds of discussion between the Fire Chief (Bill Tracy) and officials in both Southampton and Easthampton, it was decided to switch to Easthampton, which was willing to provide service for no charge. Ambulance service is a net income generator for Towns that provide such service because funds generated in bills to individuals exceed by many thousands of dollars the costs to the Towns.

5. NEW TOWN EQUIPMENT:

Following approval by Town Meeting, the Board solicited bids and approved the purchase of a new pick up truck and a new plow for the bucket loader.

6. SALARIES OF TOWN EMPLOYEES:

(a) A one year contract was negotiated by the Board with the employees of the Highway Department.

(b) The Board of Selectmen proposed instituitng a salary for the previously unpaid position of Animal Inspector. Town Meeting concurred and the salary was set at $500. (The principal function of this person is to deal with reports of animals that might be rabid).

7. MAINTENANCE OF TOWN PROPERTY:

(a) The interior of the main hall of the Town Hall was repainted. The outside, however, remains much in need of attention.

(b) Preliminary inquiries were made through a local roofing firm to determine the state of the roof of Town Hall. Some work on the wooden parts seem called for, but the slate roof remains sound for the present.

(c) The Highway Superintendent presented a plan to construct a small addition to the highway garage building that would serve as an office for the Superintendent. This plan was endorsed by the Board.

8. TRANSFER OF PROPERTY

To better separate the property of the church in the center of Town from public property surrounding it, the Board voted to put an article on the warrant for annual Town meeting to transfer a small area of lawn in front of the church from the Town to the church. This area contains the church's water line and septic system.

9. CONFLICTS IN TOWN:

(a) Jaws Auto Salvage. The Board continued to seek means to minimize impacts of Jaws Auto Salvage on abutters. A case in Superior Court between the Town and this business was eventually settled with a court-supervised agreement that covered all Board issues except parking. Board of Health issues with the business continued to be dealt with separately by the Board of Health.

(b) Pawsible: The special site permit issued to this dog training facility on Main Rd. included requirements for landscaping. The Board acted to determine that these requirements had been met by contacting the Zoning Enforcement Officer.

(c) An unwelcome visitor to a grave at the Town cemetery was the subject of discussion with the Board and the Police Chief. It was decided to have the Chief send the person a request to cease activities at the grave site.

9. INFORMATION ON BUILDING PERMITS: In an attempt to better communicate the steps in the process of getting a building permit in Town, a document detailing the various Boards involved and the best sequence in which to approach them was revised by the Board, with comments from other relevant boards.

10. CHANGES IN FEES: A $5.00 fees was approved to obtain copies of septic system documents from the Sanitation Inspector.

11. RESIGNATIONS:
Susan June from the Board of Health; Pat Coffey from the Recreation Committee; Eleanor Miller from the Council on Aging; Donald Blakesley from the Police Dept. We wish to thank Don for his twenty-eight years of dedicated sevice to the town as a police officer and Deputy Chief.

12. NEW APPOINTMENTS:
Thomas Martin to the Board of Health (effective January 5, 1998); Susan Harrison, William Webster, and Christopher Norris as EMTs; Richard Tracy as animal inspector; Jim Prickett to the Recreation Committee; Charles Ognibene to the Council on Aging; Glenn and Sue Loud to the Memorial Day Committee; Charles W. Inman as a special police officer.

We hope that all the Town's residence will take the time to read the various articles in the annual Town Report. We are very much a volunteer town and good decisions require keeping people informed and involved.

Respectfully submitted,

Lydia Omasta
Roy Van Driesche
James O'Connnor

REPORT OF THE HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

After 336 Years, Hampshire County "abolished" in 1998; Groundwork laid for Hampshire Council of Governments

This year County Commissioners intensified negotiations with state officials for an opportunity to continue the most critical regional services. After at least a century of state efforts to weaken and abolish counties, by 1998, five of the Bay State's fourteen counties had been abolished. Hampshire County was next in line, as a result of unsustainable finances created by state errors in calculations of the Hampshire County Tax.

Negotiations with the Governor's office resulted in an agreement that, in exchange for giving up the name "County" and turning over to the state the jail, registry of deeds, and facilities used primarily by the Trial Courts, local citizens would be allowed to vote on establishing a regional Council of Governments. If approved by voters in towns representing at least 30% of the property value of the County, the new entity would assume ownership of the historical 1882 Courthouse in Northampton, two downtown parking lots, and the Hampshire Care nursing facility in Leeds. It would rent space to the courts for the law library and assume most other powers and duties of the County. The state would provide a five-year declining transition grant and assume retirement obligations for former county employees.

The Legislature reduced the $2.7M five year grant to a one year grant of $950,000, transferred parking lots to the state, and stipulated that law library rent would be "nominal." They added different provisions for retirement obligations in other abolished counties, causing the Governor to veto large sections of the bill.

Although there were efforts to repass those sections, they were not successful by March 1999. On November 3, 1998, over 72% of the voters of Hampshire county voted "Yes on Question 5," with a large majority in each of the twenty municipalities approving the new Council. Just as when the County was established in 1662, people today want to solve their problems regionally, instead of looking to Boston for all the answers. Today, that means health and elder care, cooperative purchasing of municipal goods and services, and other regional services reported below.

In prior years, county functions were quite different, according to original documents still in the Old Courthouse. Early Hampshire County officials regulated taverns, settled estates, established roads, punished women for wearing silk, and tried to control "wanton lasciviousness." The record book for 1776 begins with the proud Latin heading: *Hampshire; Anno Americano Indepentia,* celebrating that year's Declaration of Independence and foreshadowing the Colony's transition to the Commonwealth in 1780. Documents such as these inspired a dedicated group of volunteers to work to preserve records of our common history by forming the Hampshire County Historical Records Advisory Committee.

Over the centuries, not only functions changed, the county boundaries changed. In 1761 Berkshire County was set off, and in 1811 and 1812 Franklin and Hampden Counties split off. In 1939 Boston "took" three Hampshire towns when the Quabbin was filled, leaving the County with its current twenty municipalities.

Even at the turn of the last century, the Massachusetts Legislature was attacking counties, and as early as 1921 mounted a "formidable" effort to take over the county jails. They succeeded in taking over the Trial Courts, District Attorney and Law Library in 1978, the Extension Service in 1984. In 1985 they passed legislation encouraging citizens to reorganize their counties, which citizens here did by passing a new county charter in 1988. The

next year the state recalculated the Hampshire County Tax, creating severe annual revenue shortfalls.

The citizens spoke on November 3, overwhelmingly endorsing a charter for the Hampshire Council of Governments. They value local control of the 1886 Richardsonian Courthouse, the excellent nursing at Hampshire Care in Leeds, retention of the historical documents, the various money-saving cooperative purchasing programs, and the inter-town cooperation fostered through a regional entity. (And they don't trust "Boston.")

Thanks to the endorsement of Westhampton voters, our town will continue to benefit from the following regional programs that transferred to the new Council of Governments.

Cooperative purchasing continues to serve the municipalities, school districts, and human service agencies of Hampshire County. School districts throughout western Massachusetts also reap the benefits of bulk buying through the art and school supplies, and classroom and library furniture annual bids. The total purchasing volume for FY1998 was: $9.9M.

The **Human Services** department maintained an active, though reduced, role in key regional human services coalitions. Following last year's reluctant elimination of County funds for local social service programs, this year County staffing for human services was reduced from two full-time positions, to a part-time consultant shared with the Council of Social Agencies.

In this western and more rural part of the state, human services are organized on a regional basis, rather than on a city level, so continuing a regional coordinating function makes inordinate sense, even with severe budgetary constraints. Our consultant participated In, sometimes facilitating or leading, groups that dealt with homelessness, the impact on schools of violence in society, domestic violence, reinventing justice, welfare-to-work, and

integrated referral and centralized intake for human services in Hampshire County.

Two grant programs overseen by the Human Services consultant provide some General county wide services and some services specific to individual towns: The Tobacco Free Coalition and the Safe Roads program.

The **Hampshire County Regional Services Department** develops regional approaches to problems shared by Hampshire County municipalities. A prime example is the shared regional lock-up. By working aggressively with both legislative and administrative state officials, Commissioners have moved the project to the design stage. The Department staffs a working committee that includes representatives from the police chiefs and the sheriff's department.

The Department had another extremely successful year screening, placing, and delivering federal **surplus property** to local communities. Major items include many vehicles, including pickups, stake body trucks, dump trucks, blazers, cars, and others. The Department also supplied file cabinets, microscopes, snowplows, tools, trailers, computers, jacks, fork lifts, generators, compressors, and many other smaller items. Communities typically pay about 10 percent of the current value of the property, most of which goes to the State. In fiscal year 1998, the net current value of property delivered by the Department, after fees and delivery charges, exceeded $225,000, up from $157,000 in FY 97.

The **Hampshire Inspection Program**, provided building inspection and zoning enforcement services for the communities of Huntington, Chesterfield, Middlefield, Goshen and Plainfield in FY 98. In FY 98, participating towns paid for roughly two thirds of the costs of the program, with the balance being paid from County coffers. This year, town income from fees exceeded the program assessment in all but one town. With the addition of two more towns, the program has moved closer to becoming self-supporting, our goal for FY 2000. We would expect participating towns to fund

their share of the expense through their local permit fees.

The Department provides staffing for a **countywide Local Emergency Planning Committee**, whose mission is to plan for emergencies involving hazardous materials. That committee has updated local SARA Title III plans for most Hampshire County communities, and is coordinating a regional plan to unite those local efforts. It also coordinated planning of a tabletop disaster exercise, which was run in Belchertown in November, 1998.

In FY 98, Regional Services continued to produce **workshops and seminars** on topics of interest to municipal officials, such as municipal law, ethics, sexual harassment, planning and zoning issues, and electric utility deregulation.

As trustees for the **Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust**, the Commissioners provided regional public employers life, accident, and health benefit programs. Thirty Hampshire County towns, fire districts, and school districts enjoy the benefits and savings of belonging to a large group. Recognizing those advantages, on July 1, 1997, thirty-two public employers from Franklin County joined the group, adding almost 1000 subscribers. Each of these units is entitled to representation on an Advisory Board which makes recommendations on trust policies to the Commissioners. Approximately 160 subscribers left the group when jail and registry of deeds employees transferred to the state plan.

Hampshire Care ended 1998 in an increasingly strengthening position. With the widespread recognition of the outstanding Nursing and Rehabilitative care offered, and the positive vote on the Council of Governments question, the the number of patients who have chosen Hampshire Care has risen to the point where we have a very high census. Increasing numbers of patients are asking to move to Hampshire Care from other facilities. As we totally rely

on ourpatient revenues for our operations, and receive no financial support from the Council of Governments, having a good census is very helpful in enabling us to provide high quality care.

In Fiscal Year 1998 Hampshire Care received the third survey report in a row that showed no deficiencies. Our staff has remained loyal and steadfast through the long period of uncertainty that surrounded the future of the County, and this has resulted in a continuation of the excellent care that the facility has always delivered. Excellent staffing is the very heart and soul of high quality care.

Although new Medicaid and Medicare rates will put tremendous challenges before us as they continue to cut spending, we are committed to providing quality care that continues to meet the very high standard we have established. We are also committed to meeting the needs of the people of Hampshire County in any ways that may be appropriate and we will analyze new opportunities as they present themselves. Among other areas, we feel that the 100+ acres of lovely grounds and woodlands that Hampshire Care enjoys should be more utilized by the local people, and we will look for ways to make this possible.

The elected Councilors, the staff and administration of the new Council of Governments, including those at Hampshire Care, are very thankful to the people of Hampshire County, and to our senators and representatives, who have showed such strong support for us during the past year. We will make every effort to make sure that your expressions of support are well deserved.

Respectfully submitted,

Karla E. Stefansson
Hampshire County Commissioner

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

VITAL STATISTICS for 1998 were as follows:

BIRTHS	5
DEATHS	5
MARRIAGES	2

DOG LICENSES (1997)

71 Males	at $3.00		$213.00
7 Spayed Females	at $3.00		$ 42.00
68 Females	@ $6.00		$204.00
4 Kennels	@ $10.00		$40.00
TOTAL			$649.00
Fees Collected	128 $ .75	$96.00	

TOWN FEES from Dog Licenses	$109.50
TOWN FEES from Kennel Licenses	5.25
TOTAL TOWN FEES	$114.75

HUNTUNG/FISHING/ LICENSES/STAMPS

22 Stamps	$110.80	
6 Fishing Licenses	117.50	
7 Hunting/Sporting Licenses	249.50	
6 Hunting/Sporting Licenses >70 yrs.	0.00	
TOTAL	477.80	
TOWN FEES from Hunting/Fishing Licenses		$19.30

TOWN CLERK FEES	$357.00
TOWN FEES	$122.00

POPULATION (1998 Census)	1493

TOTAL REGISTERED VOTERS	961
Democrats	123
Republicans	119
Unenrolled	719

Respectfully submitted,

Karla E. Stefansson
Westhampton Town Clerk

I have examined the books of the Town Clerk and find this report to be accurate.

Charlotte R. Wood, Auditor

REPORT OF THE TAX COLLECTOR
JULY 1, 1997 - JUNE 30, 1998

FY96 Farm Animal Excise		
Due 7/1/97	33.80	
Due 6/30/98		33.80
FY97 Farm Animal Excise		
Commited	2018.80	
Collected	-1784.10	
Due 6/30/98		234.70
FY90 Personal Property		
Due 7/1/97	99.15	
Due 6/30/98		99.15
FY91 Personal Property		
Due 7/1/97	143.52	
Due 6/30/98		143.52
FY92 Personal Property		
Due 7/1/97	257.28	
Due 6/30/98		257.28
FY93 Personal Property		
Due 7/1/97	111.30	
Due 6/30/98		111.30
FY94 Personal Property		
Due 7/1/97	140.40	
Due 6/30/98		140.40
FY95 Personal Property		
Due 7/1/97	315.01	
Due 6/30/98		315.01

FY96 Personal Property		
Due 7/1/97	508.76	
Due 6/30/98		508.76
FY97 Personal Property		
Due 7/1/97	2555.54	
Collected	-1919.68	
Due 6/30/98		635.86
FY98 Personal Property		
Committed	33363.64	
Collected	-31617.22	
Due 6/30/98		1746.42
FY92 Real Estate		
Due 7/1/97	30.66	
Due 6/30/98		30.66
FY93 Real Estate		
Due 7/1/97	60.20	
Due 6/30/98		60.20
FY94 Real Estate		
Due 7/1/97	4738.88	
Collected	-638.50	
Due 6/30/98		4100.38
FY95 Real Estate		
Due 7/1/97	3917.35	
Collected	-3061.34	
Due 6/30/98		856.01
FY96 Real Estate		
Due 7/1/97	19487.40	
Collected	-4024.52	
Due		15462.88

FY97 Real Estate		
Due 7/1/97	45776.49	
Collected	-14176.76	
Tax Titles	-135.20	
Refunds	677.03	
Due 6/30/98		32141.56
FY98 Real Estate		
Committed	1561051.31	
Committed	2411.63	
Committed	4254.08	
Committed	1398.46	
Collected	-1482640.77	
Abated	-11171.60	
Exemptions	-8800.00	
Refunds	11652.33	
Due 6/30/98		78155.44
1987 Motor Vehicle Excise		
Due 7/1/97	13.75	
Due 6/30/98		13.75
1988 Motor Vehicle Excise		
Due 7/1/97	379.38	
Collected	-11.46	
Due 6/30/98		367.92
1989 Motor Vehicle Excise		
Due 7/1/97	217.52	
Collected	-8.75	
Due 6/30/98		208.77

1990 Motor Vehicle Excise		
Due 7/1/97	548.44	
Collected	-17.50	
Due 6/30/98		530.94
1991 Motor Vehicle Excise		
Due 7/1/97	240.63	
Due 6/30/98		240.63
1992 Motor Vehicle Excise		
Due 7/1/97	270.84	
Collected	- 5.00	
Due 6/30/98		265.84
1993 Motor Vehicle Excise		
Due 7/1/97	642.71	
Collected	-111.88	
Due 6/30/98		530.83
1994 Motor Vehicle Excise		
Due 7/1/97	973.76	
Collected	-31.98	
Due 6/30/98		941.78
1995 Motor Vehicle Excise		
Due 7/1/97	4080.97	
Collected	-12.50	
Due 6/30/98		4068.47
1996 Motor Vehicle Excise		
Due 7/1/97	738.07	
Committed	153.13	
Collected	-394.69	
Due 6/30/98		496.51

1997 Motor Vehicle Excise		
Due 7/1/97	2896.90	
Committed	13218.11	
Collected	-	
	16395.71	
Abated	- 750.83	
Refunds	1352.29	
Due 6/30/98		320.76
1998 Motor Vehicle Excise		
Commited	96733.23	
Abated	-1417.50	
Collected	-	
	91313.92	
Refunds	1403.00	
Due 6/30/98		5404.81

Interest Collected - Real Estate	5011.95
- Personal Property	235.89
- Motor Vehicle	382.38
	5630.22

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Blakesley
Tax Collector

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

GENERAL FUND

Balance July 1, 1997	$367071.91
Receipts	2858370.26
Disbursements	-2951169.30
Balance June 30, 1998	$274272.87

BankBoston Checking	3233.11
BankBoston Capital	19805.11
Easthampton Savings Bank	12768.42
Fleet Checking	4580.26
Fleet Money Market	41609.02
Fleet Collector	2679.67
Fleet Deputy Collector	2858.75
MMDT General	173275.24
MMDTCultural Council	2256.23
MMDT Septic Grant	6690.76
United Savings Bank	4516.30
Balance June 30, 1998	274272.87

TRUST FUNDS -MMDT

Charity	$3415.56
Cemetery	3737.44
Veterans	1414.42
Stabilization Fund	
Balance July 1, 1997	47476.95
Receipts	20160.55
Disbursements	-27039.66
Balance June 30, 1998	$40597.84
Total Trust	$49165.26
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	$323438.13

Interest earned - $35184.35

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret A. Parsons, Treasurer

REPORT OF THE TOWN ACCOUNTING OFFICER

JULY 1, 1997- JUNE 30, 1998

Cash on Hand July 1, 1997		
General	**$367071.91**	
Stabilization	**47476.95**	
Trust Funds	**8492.16**	**$423041.02**

RECEIPTS

TAXES		
Property	1539479.25	
Farm Animal Excise	1784.10	
Forest Products Tax	1569.92	
In Lieu of Taxes	17898.87	
Motor Vehicle Excise	108314.32	
Tax Title	616.31	
		1669662.77
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS		
Local Aid/Lottery	100030.00	
Highway	36663.00	
Chapter 70 Schools	182623.00	
Chapter 71 Transportation	10004.00	
SBAB Reimbursement	277312.00	
Loss of Taxes	4018.00	
		610650.00
GRANTS AND GIFTS		
Dog Refund	4 33.41	
Council on Aging-Federal	1000.00	
Council on Aging-State	2000.00	
Council on Aging Grant	2600.00	
Cultural Council	3150.00	
Library Aid	1838.90	

Septic Grant	22267.04	
Rural Fire Grant	1800.00	
SAFE - Fire Dept.	3800.00	38889.35

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Licenses	303.00	
Plumbing Fees	1358.00	
Electrical Fees	2775.00	
Sanitation Fees	615.00	
Building Permits	7099.50	
Assessors	134.36	
Planning Board	722.50	
Board of Appeals	346.00	
Conservation Commission	412.50	
Mark & Clear	300.00	
Town Clerk Fees	693.07	
Miscellaneous	2729.12	
		17488.05

POLICE

Motor Vehicle Fines	3705.00	
Permits	577.00	
Revolving Fund	13252.25	
		17534.25

BOARD OF HEALTH

Septic Design	1200.00	
Licenses & Permits	455.00	
Perc Tests	2737.00	
Landfill Fees	23299.75	
		27691.75

REVOLVING FUNDS

Dog Licenses	640.25	
Fish & Wildlife Fees	503.00	
Septic Repayment	10057.30	
Tax Collector Fees	4002.00	
Deputy Collector Fees	909.00	
		16111.55

SCHOOLS

Preschool Revolving	18421.14	
Bond Technology Grant	5160.00	
Health Protection Grant	8700.00	
Literacy Grant	8800.00	
School Lunch State	835.73	
School Lunch Federal	4784.81	
School Lunch Sales	15898.00	
		62599.68

HIGHWAY

Transportation Bond Issue	111023.30	111023.30

INTEREST

On General Fund	25879.57	
On Taxes	5630.22	
On Tax Titles	94.69	
On Charity Funds	187.17	
On Cemetery Funds	204.80	
On Veterans Trust	75.26	
On Stabilization	2660.55	
On Septic Grant	245.94	
On Arts Lottery	206.15	
		35184.35

AGENCY

Meals Tax	31.65	
Payroll Deductions	244699.71	244731.36

TOTAL RECEIPTS **$2851566.41**

PAYMENTS

NON-APPROPRIATION EXPENDITURES

TAX REFUNDS

Property Tax	12329.36	
Motor Vehicle Excise	2755.29	15084.65

AGENCY

Payroll Deductions	245582.47	
Meals Tax	31.65	245614.12

SCHOOL REVOLVING FUNDS & GRANTS

School Lunch	19920.60	
Preschool	18171.63	
Bond Technology Grant	5160.00	
Health Protection Grant	8699.83	
Literacy Grant	8800.00	60752.06

SPECIAL REVENUE & REVOLVING FUNDS

Cultural Council	4790.50	
Council on Aging State	2000.00	
Council on Aging Federal	1060.94	
Council on Aging Grant	2600.00	
Highway Funds	129037.13	
Fire Grants	4533.35	
Cemetery Gift	1199.45	
Police Revolving	25166.65	
Septic Grant	22110.34	
Tax Collector Fees	4002.00	
Deputy Collector Fees	389.00	
Fish & Wildlife Fees	503.00	
Dog Licenses	724.25	
		198116.61

STATE & COUNTY ASSESSMENTS

Air Pollution Control	334.00	
RMV Non-renewal Surcharge	240.00	
Pioneer Valley Planning	199.05	
Franklin Regional Transit Auth.	370.00	
County Tax	4437.82	5580.87

TOTAL Non-Appropriation $ 525148.31

APPROPRIATION EXPENDITURES $2426020.99
See Appropriation Report for Detail

TOTAL EXPENDITURES **$2951169.30**

Cash on Hand July 1, 1997

General	**274272.87**	
Stabilization	**40597.84**	
Trust Funds	**8567.42**	**$ 323438.13**

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret A. Parsons
Accounting Officer

APPROPRIATION REPORT FISCAL 1998

ACCOUNT	BALANCE 7/1/97	APPROPRIATION	TRANSFERS (IN OR OUT)	EXPENDITURES	BALANCE CLOSED	BALANCE TO F1999
COUNSEL FEES	0.00	5000.00	800.00	5425.38	374.62	
MODERATOR	0.00	150.00		150.00	0.00	
SELECTMEN SALARY	0.00	3200.00		2900.00	300.00	
SELECTMEN EXPENSE	0.00	3500.00				
Travel				549.68		
Dues				479.00		
Town Report				793.00		
Legal Ads				611.88		
Supplies				434.70		
Postage				128.00		
				2996.26	503.74	
SELECTMEN SECRETARY	0.00	2500.00		2500.00	0.00	
AUDITOR SALARY	0.00	150.00		150.00	0.00	
ACCOUNTING OFF SALARY	0.00	6000.00		6000.00	0.00	
AUDIT		5625.00		5625.00	0.00	

ACCOUNTING EXPENSE	0.00	900.00		
Computer Contract			405.00	
Supplies/computer			210.57	
Dues			40.00	
Travel			228.10	
			883.67	16.33
ASSESSORS SALARY	0.00	3200.00	3150.00	50.00
ASSESSORS EXPENSE	0.00	7750.00		
Dues/Travel			150.00	
Registry Transfer			130.50	
Revaluation			5375.00	
Data Input			500.00	
Supplies			1588.99	
			7744.49	5.51
ASSESSORS SECRETARY	0.00	975.00	975.00	0.00
TREASURER SALARY		6000.00	6000.00	0.00
TREASURER EXPENSE	0.00	3200.00		
Computer Contract			375.00	
Bank Charges			719.63	
Note Fees			25.00	
Dues			45.00	
Travel			145.10	
Postage			365.20	
Supplies/equipment			1339.68	
			3014.61	185.39

TAX COLLECTOR SALARY	0.00	4500.00	4500.00	0.00	
TAX COLLECTOR EXPENSE		3100.00			
Assistance			179.00		
Repairs/Equipment			331.54		
Postage/envelopes			1432.02		
Supplies			424.66		
Tax Bills			237.94		
Dues/Travel			71.83		
			2676.99	423.01	
TOWN CLERK SALARY	0.00	4500.00	4500.00	0.00	
TOWN CLERK EXPENSE		2245.00			
Computer Contract			100.00		
Election Officers			360.04		
Census			150.00		
Supplies/Printing			1479.02		
Dues/Travel			45.00		
			2134.06	33.94	77.00
CLERK BOARD REGISTRAR	0.00	60.00	60.00	0.00	
CONSERVATION COMM.	0.00	850.00			
Dues			80.00		
Supplies			21.35		
			101.35		
Balance closed to Conservation Fund				748.65	

PLANNING BOARD EXP.	0.00	200.00	0.00	200.00	
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION	0.00	2860.00			
Uniforms			1312.04		
Telephone			965.09		
License Renewals			80.00		
Supplies			187.01		
Dues & Travel			55.00		
			2599.14	260.86	
HIGHWAY SALARIES	0.00	114000.00	113603.18	396.82	
HOLIDAY PAY	0.00	3874.00	3873.60	0.40	
VACATION PAY		3841.00	3765.94	75.06	
BRIDGES & RAILINGS	500.00	500.00	0.00	0.00	1000.00
HIGHWAY MATERIALS	0.00	50000.00			
Clean Catch Basins			8162.50		
Road Surfacing			40961.14		
County Fee/Mower			754.54		
			49878.18	121.82	
ROAD MACHINERY	0.00	20000.00			
Repairs			2904.03		
Parts/Supplies			11900.05		
			14804.08	5195.92	

ROAD MACHINERY FUEL	0.00	10800.00		9320.04	1479.96	
SNOW REMOVAL	-24398.65	40000.00	28898.65			
Overtime				7841.55		
Winter Sand				16557.77		
Salt				19473.17		
Supplies/Repairs				426.84		
				44299.33	200.67	
ROAD MACHINERY BLDS.	0.00	3900.00				
Electricity				1076.62		
Heat				2017.30		
Supplies/Maintenance				658.11		
				3752.03	147.97	
HIGHWAY TRUCK	78435.00			76478.44		1956.56
HAMPSHIRE REGIONAL H.S.	0.00	535000.00	-13400.00			
Assessment				521600.00		
					0.00	
VOCATIONAL	0.00	129190.00				
Tuition				14940.00		
Transportation				94289.66		
Balance closed to Stabilization				109229.66	19960.34	
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	0.00	682349.00	9202.00	687595.84	379.47	3575.69
See Elementary Report						

SCHOOL COMM. SALARY	0.00	480.00		480.00	0.00
LIBRARY	0.00	19190.00			
State Aid			1856.00		
Salary				13877.51	
Utilities and Lawns				1804.96	
Books and Supplies				5363.53	
				21046.00	0.00
VETERANS	0.00	100.00			
Dues				35.00	65.00
VETERANS AGENT SALARY	0.00	550.00		550.00	0.00
MEMORIAL DAY	0.00	100.00		87.35	12.65
CEMETERY SALARY	0.00	2600.00		2600.00	0.00
POLICE DEPARTMENT	1333.73	25000.00	1173.00		
Salary				18231.00	
Mileage				289.96	
Dues				472.00	
Utilities				2119.17	
WMLEC				500.00	
Equipment/Supplies				2371.56	
Repairs/Maintenance				2010.16	
				25993.85	1512.88

CONSTABLE		1.00		0.00	1.00
FIRE CHIEF		825.00		825.00	0.00
FIRE DEPARTMENT		7000.00			
Hazardous Waste Fund				186.00	
Repairs				3759.82	
Supplies/Equipment				3004.38	
				6950.20	49.80
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES		6000.00	125.00		
Ambulance				2000.00	
Telephone				1017.07	
Equipment				2784.30	
Training				300.00	
				6101.37	23.63
INSPECTOR SALARY	855.00	6300.00			
Building Inspector				3500.00	
Plumbing Inspector				660.00	
Sanitation Inspector				435.00	
Wiring Inspector (2 years)				1845.00	
				6440.00	715.00
CIVIL DEFENSE		1.00		0.00	1.00
DOG OFFICER		1.00		0.00	1.00

HILLTOWN RESOURCE MGT.		4648.00		4647.14	0.86	
BOARD OF HEALTH SALARY		5400.00		900.00		
Perc tests				968.00		
				1868.00	3532.00	
BOARD OF HEALTH EXPENSE		14783.00				
Salary				6663.65		
Hazardous Waste Removal				606.68		
Oil Removal				247.50		
Recyclable Removal				3800.00		
Stickers/Supplies				1160.62		
				12478.45	304.55	2000.00
LANDFILL CAPPING	21375.52	17500.00	-7000.00			
Engineering				22844.79	0.00	9030.73
TRANSFER STATION			7000.00	4000.00	0.00	3000.00
DEBT AND INTEREST						
SCHOOL LOAN		245000.00		245000.00	0.00	
TANK TRUCK LOAN		22000.00		22000.00	0.00	
FIRE STATION ADDITION LOAN		10000.00		10000.00	0.00	
INTEREST LONG TERM DEBT		183482.00		183482.00	0.00	

INTEREST SHORT TERM DEBT	1.00	0.00	1.00
UNCLASSIFIED			
INSURANCE & BONDS	30000.00		
Worker's Comp		5217.00	
Property & Casualty		17511.00	
Police Disability		1851.00	
Fire Disability		2175.00	
Bonds		1126.00	
		27880.00	2120.00
TOWN OFFICES	11700.00		
Custodian		1103.77	
Electricity		1621.48	
Telephone		1259.15	
Copier		474.00	
Lawns		1251.00	
Fuel		1225.84	
Repairs/Improvements		2608.94	
Supplies		207.34	
		9751.52	1948.48
COUNCIL ON AGING	1000.00	1000.00	0.00
RECREATION	1000.00	1000.00	0.00

HISTORICAL		200.00		126.22	73.78	
COUNTY RETIREMENT		38578.00		38578.00	0.00	
UNEMPLOYMENT		6500.00	-4500.00	0.00	2000.00	
GROUP INSURANCE		68000.00		62387.14	5612.86	
MEDICARE		5500.00	125.00	5573.69	51.31	
LAND DAMAGE	2455.93	1.00	1100.00	9.00	0.00	3547.93
RESERVE FUND		5000.00				
To Police Department			-1173.00			
To Land Damage			-1100.00			
To Counsel Fees			-800.00			
To Emergency Med Services			-125.00			
To Medicare			-125.00			
					1677.00	
	80556.53	2398360.00	22056.65	2426020.99	50764.28	24187.91

BALANCE SHEET JUNE 30, 1998

ASSETS

CASH	274272.87
TAXES	
Levy of 1998	
Real Estate	77179.98
Personal Property	1746.42
Levy of 1997	
Real Estate	30352.17
Personal Property	582.89
Levy of 1996	
Real Estate	14224.96
Personal Property	490.11
Levy of 1995	
Real Estate	856.01
Personal Property	324.36
Levy of 1994	
Real Estate	4100.38
Personal Property	140.40
Levy of 1993	
Real Estate	60.20
Personal Property	111.30
Levy of 1992	
Real Estate	30.66
Personal Property	257.28
Levy of 1991	941.78
Personal Property	143.52
Levy of 1990	
Personal Property	99.15
Farm Animal Excise	268.70
Tax Title	758.23
Motor Vehicle Excise	
Levy of 1998	5398.56
1997	324.83
1996	1049.93
1995	474.13

LIABILITIES

AGENCY		4705.29
GIFTS		
Cemetery Gift		31308.37
TRUST INCOME		858.68
GRANTS		
Cultural Council		2256.23
St. Aid to Libraries		1838.90
Council on Aging Fed		594.43
Chapter 113-37161		78972.47
Septic Grant		156.70
SepticLoanRepayment		10644.70
Septic Grant Interest		405.66
REVOLVING FDS		
Tax Collector Fees		135.00
Deputy Collector Fees		520.00
Preschool		3246.29
School Lunch		4836.09
Loans Auth-Unissued		962.00
RECEIPTS RESERVED		
Conservation Comm		2733.93
Refunded Dog Tax		434.05
Sale Town Property		106000.00
OVERLAYS -	1990	99.15
	1991	143.52
	1993	171.50
	1994	2813.34
	1995	3358.68
Overlay	1996	9051.59
Overlay	1997	2421.95

1994	941.78		
1993	530.83	REVENUE RESERVED	
1992	265.84	Tax Title Revenue	758.23
1991	240.63	MVE Revenue	10347.91
1990	530.94	Farm Excise Revenue	268.70
1989	208.77		
1988	367.92	SURPLUS	
1987	13.75	Surplus Revenue	188991.32
StateAid to Highways	100926.26	APPROPRIATIONS	
		Town Clerk Expense	77.00
Loans Authorized	962.00	Bridges & Railings	1000.00
		HighwayTruck	1956.56
Police Revolving Fund	12542.40	Elementary School	3575.69
		Board of Health Exp.	2000.00
		Landfill Capping	9030.73
RMV Non-renewal	240.00	Land Damage	3547.93
Total Assets	531018.16	Total Liabilities	531018.16

BALANCE SHEET - TRUST, INVESTMENT AND DEBT

TRUST CASH	49165.26	Street & Wright Fd.	2400.54
		Thayer Fund	1015.01
		Cemetery Funds	3737.45
		Stabilization	40597.84
		Veterans	1414.42
Total Assets	49165.26	Total Liabilities	49165.26
LONG TERM DEBT	2324000		
		New School Loan	2125000
		Dept. Eqpt. Loan	44000
		Highway Truck Loan	110000
		Loader Loan	45000
Total Long Term Debt	2324000		2324000

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF ASSESSORS

In 1998 the Board of Assessors issued 95 abatements and exemptions: 50 Real Estate and Personal Property and 45 Motor Vehicle; visited 51 properties undergoing construction or remodeling; recorded 77 property transfers; and approved the placing of 6 additional parcels under the protection of Chapter 61, 61A, and 61B.

The town successfully completed its nine year full list and measure revaluation. Westhampton's assessed value for FY99 is $113,913,690: Real Estate - $93,820,300; Personal Property - $2,012,990; and Exempt - $18,080,400.

The Tax Rate was set in December of 1998 at $17.20 per $1000.00 of evaluation.

The Board of Assessors meets every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. at the Assessor's Office at the Town Hall. Please feel free to come up or call us at that time.

Respectfully submitted,

Priscilla Miller, Chair
Paul Nevins
Dolores Thornhill

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

As of January 1, 1997 the Finance Committee members were:

Mark Thornhill, Secretary	1998
Wallace Hlava	1998
Karl Norris	1999
David Brown	1999
Lydia Omasta	1999
Owen Bowman	1999
Janice Tracy, Chairperson	2000
Margaret Parsons	2000
Roy Van Driesche	2000
Richard Tillson	2000

At the elections in June, Mark Thornhill and Wallace Hlava were re-elected, all for 3 year terms.

Reserve Fund transfers made in Fiscal 1998:

Police Department	$1173	March
Land Damage	$1100	May
Emergency Medical Services	$125	June
Counsel Fees	$ 800	June
Medicare	$125	June

Reserve Fund transfers made for Fiscal 1999:

Police Department	$2500	December

On March 24, it was voted to declare a Snow Emergency and to authorize over-expending the Snow Removal Account. On recommendation of the Finance Committee, a special town meeting, held in June, voted to cover the $4500 Snow Removal deficit with the transfer of available funds from the Unemployment Account.

On recommendation of the Finance Committee, a special town meeting in April voted $9202 in excess Lottery Aid to the Elementary School for school choice expenses.

The Finance Committee met with the various individuals, boards and committees to hear budget requests for FY 99. The budget as recommended and voted at Town Meeting was in deficit. Because of increased Lottery moneys to the town and as a result of votes in other towns lowering our Hampshire Regional assessment, we were able to balance the budget. There was $90,435 in free cash and at the recommendation of the Finance Committee, it was voted to use $19,500 to reduce taxes and $30,750 to purchase a new pickup truck for the Highway Department.

A major concern for the town was the state mandated closure and capping of the Landfill, and the resulting need for the town to provide appropriate and adequate waste recycling and disposal. We endorsed the plan put forth by the Board of Health to appropriate $325,000 for the capping of the landfill. It was anticipated that the actual cost would be in the $500,000 range, but the income to make up the difference was anticipated from a firm with which the town had contracted to use the extra space for disposal of demolition waste. It was our recommendation that the $325,000 appear on the election ballot in June as a Proposition 2 1/2 debt exclusion. A 2/3 Town meeting vote approved this plan and a majority vote was made on the ballot. We also supported the Board of Health's plan to construct a transfer station on the landfill property, with the Highway Department doing much of the construction work, with an expected cost to the town of $80,000. This money would be borrowed and paid back in 3-5 years as a line item in the budget of those years.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Tracy, Chairperson

REPORT OF THE PLANNING BOARD

This year the Board reviewed and signed off on plot plans and building permit applications, with numbers being similar to the previous year. No subdivision plans were submitted.

The Board meets the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30P.M. We currently have a vacancy on the Board, and invite anyone interested to contact us, or the Board of Selectmen.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Coffey
Steven Malinowski
Andrew Watson
Mark Schwallie

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF APPEALS

During 1998 there was only one request to the Appeals Board. After being given thorough review, the appeal was granted with conditions.

Four members attended an informational / training session at Holyoke Community College to further their level of understanding and responsibilities as they address various issues coming before the Board. These seminars are an on-going series, sponsored jointly by the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and various State agencies.

As in the past, the board continues to meet only when an issue arises.

There have been no changes to the personnel making up the board and consequently there remains one open Associates position.

Current members of the appeals board are:

Dan Bishop	Dolores Thornhill	Robert Turner
Lori Devine	Barry Brandow	Karen Bricker

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Malinowski, Chairman

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH

The Board of Health continues to meet every second and fourth Thursday of each month, at 7:00PM at the Town Hall.

This year has been quite busy with the landfill taking up much of our time. The operating portion of the landfill was closed this year and the remaining volume sold to an outside contractor for the disposal of construction and demolition debris. The contractor brought in approximately 10,000 tons of debris to the site. Isolated debris, that had been buried years ago on-site, was also relocated to the active landfill. The contractor has not paid the Town all the money owed because he claims there was much more isolated debris than the Town represented in the bid documents. The Town is currently trying to work out an equitable resolution to this claim.

Special thanks to Charlie Inman for his role as the landfill inspector while the landfill was being filled by the outside contractor. Charlie was extremely efficient in his duties. His knowledge and sense were invaluable assets to the Town throughout the project.

Also special thanks to Bill Tracy, Margie Parsons and the Board of Selectmen for their continued involvement in the complicated issue of closing our landfill.

At last year's Town Meeting, voters approved funding for the construction of a new transfer station at the Hathaway Road site. Bill Tracy and the highway crew have done a commendable job with the construction of the transfer station over the course of the winter.

Over 330 Westhampton households and businesses bought $25.00 disposal permits for the landfill this past year.

Several programs and clinics have been sponsored by the Board in the past year:

- The HRMC organized a paint swap at the landfill.

- Five families were able to participate in the annual hazardous waste collection program that was set up with other hilltowns and the HRMC.

-A rabies clinic was held at the fire station.

Respectfully submitted,

John Sackrey, Chairman
Robert Daysh
Tom Martin

REPORT OF THE HILLTOWN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COOPERATIVE

The Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative is a unique regional municipal cooperative created, operated and funded by its eleven member communities of Ashfield, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Hatfield, Huntington, Middlefield, Plainfield, Westhampton, Williamsburg, and Worthington. The HRMC's main goal is to continue to develop a first quality

integrated recycling and waste management program for the region. This year, for the fifth year in a row, the HRMC will continue to be level funded. Every year, on your behalf, the HRMC works on the following efforts:

• Monitor area recycling and waste management efforts at the Springfield MRF and the Northampton Landfill to make sure we are all doing the best as we can!

• Plan and operate the plastics recycling program, tire collection program, and Salvation Army program, as well as the regional Hazardous Waste Collection Program and the Paint Recycling Program.

• Coordinate the regional sales of compost bins and provide recycling set out bins to all area schools and residents as needed throughout the year.

• Provide outreach and education workshops and programs to HRMC area schools and community groups.

• Work with local officials on planning, technical assistance, improved transfer station operations, provide general educational information, explore new DEP grant programs, assist with regional efforts and monitor state regulatory policy.

•Develop new programs such as recycling assistance to businesses, the electronics recycling program and develop other innovative new programs.

Feel free to contact the HRMC anytime at (413) 268-3845, if you have any questions about these valuable programs.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Weiss, Administrator

REPORT OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Westhampton Conservation Commission has continued to provide protection for Westhampton's rivers and streams, wetlands, wildlife habitats, and water quality, by administering the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and Riverfront Protection Act. The Commission plans to continue to provide assistance to town landowners compliance efforts in maintaining the good health of our waters. Many activities took place in town this year under Conservation Commission jurisdiction, including the cooperative efforts of all town boards involved in the landfill capping. No denials were issued.

Mandated Activities

• Site visits:	22
• Notice of Intent Hearings	2
• Request for Determination received	9
• Forest cutting plans\Notice of Intent	4
Acres filed for harvest	322

Financial Performance

• Prior balance:	$2422.78
• Fees collected	$ 412.50
• Administrative expenses	$ 101.35
• Balance:	$2733.93

Membership

- Daniel Pikett, Chair
- Nancy Whitley, Secretary
- Amy Phinney
- Walter Brown
- Larry Cervelli
- Bob La Palme
- Steve Holt

The Conservation Commission continues to meet the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:30P.M. in the Library. Additionally, the Commission would like to thank the library trustees for the use of this space.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Pikett, Chair

REPORT OF THE CEMETERY CARETAKER

1998 was a year that showed opposite extremes. Following the spring cleanup, mowing and trimming started off almost nonstop due to the wet season we had. It finally slowed up during August. The leaves started falling early and have allowed me to get a jump on the cleanup this year. The northern half of the fence across the front of the cemetery was replaced this spring. Special thanks go to **Chris Skelton**, Bob and Nance MacDonald's nephew. He painted the new section of fence in time for Memorial Day. The Cemetery Association replaced my antique trailer this year with a new pneumatic dump trailer from A.C.T. Vehicle Equipment in Westfield.

There were:

9 Burials
2 Cremations
6 New Lots
5 Foundations

Respectfully submitted,

Edward C. Fisher, Caretaker

REPORT OF THE ANIMAL INSPECTOR

The annual farm animal census was done, as required by the state, with the following results:

Dairy Cattle	347
Beef cattle	46
Steers	2
Oxen	1
Goats	14
Sheep	18
Swine	3
Horses	83
Ponies	3
Donkeys	4
Chickens	318
Ratites	20
Waterfowl	54
Gamebirds	2
Rabbits	23

All the animals were in good health and well cared for. In January 1998, we had a raccoon test positive for rabies with 1 dog exposure and 3 human exposures. The dog was quarantined for 45 days and exhibited no signs of rabies. The humans received the preventative treatment advised by their doctors. An additional 2 raccoons were destroyed during the year for exhibiting signs of rabies.

Statewide rabies cases were up in 1998 and could likely continue to rise in 1999. The importance of vaccinating pets, as required by law, continues.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard I. Tracy, Animal Health Inspector

REPORT OF THE HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Snow removal in 1998 was not too difficult. A number of small storms during the first quarter and now November and December have been no problem at all.

We did a lot of tree cutting on upper Kings Highway during February and March, and followed that with stumping, rock removal, and retaining wall building so we could widen that portion of road. It is still an under-constructed gravel road, but it is wide enough for two-way traffic and much safer than before.

During April, on a state awarded contract, Route 66 was milled down 2 inches and completely resurfaced. This was a great advantage, as the cost would have been prohibitive for the town to handle. Also, as a bonus, we made the arrangements to get all the millings. We have used about half of them to improve surfaces on gravel roads, and the second half we hope to process and use as a cold overlay on Mine Road and part of Edwards Road.

On Montague Road, we installed drainage pipe which will give outlet to surface water which previously was trapped at the intersection of North Road and Montague. We did some widening in this same area and installed drainage for the surface water between number 49 and 59. We then shimmed and overlaid the whole road.

At Annual Meeting in May, it was voted to purchase a power angle snow plow to go on the bucket loader, and also a new pickup truck to replace the 1985 truck which was getting pretty tired. Both of these purchases have been completed and are working well.

These regular replacements of equipment, when necessary, keep our fleet in good condition. This saves frustration, lost time, and

money by avoiding breakdowns and costly repairs. I believe it is a good program which should be continued.

This report would not be complete without an update on proposed projects and their status. Route 66, as mentioned above, has been completed. Bridge #W-27-6, on Kings Highway, did finally go to bid and a low bidder was selected, but as far as I know, they have not been given authority to start work yet.

The surveying and design of the Kings Highway/Reservoir Road project is at the 30% level, but it is not being pushed at the time because of the greatly reduced supply of state and federal funds. The major portion of federal funds dedicated to the depressed Central Artery in Boston has been received, but much of the work is not done, so now there is a great scramble to come up with enough funding to finish the project. This indicates to me that there will be a lot less money available for the next several years to spread around the state and it will surely have some affect on us. Our South Road reconstruction project is the most critical right now. After already being delayed for two years, it is now one of the top nine projects in the Pioneer Valley Region for this year (1999), and if it is advertised before October 1, 1999, it will probably happen in the year 2000. If it gets put off until after October 1st, it is anybody's guess what will happen.

For projects we will handle ourselves, there is a proposed new home to be built on Rhodes Road which will require some road work, and, possibly, a new home requiring an upgrade extension of Reservoir Road closer to the Chesterfield town line. Also, there are a number of sections of gravel roads which have been improved but not completed, and I hope we can get some of them done.

In conjunction with the closing of our landfill, the Highway Department built the Transfer Station/ Recycling Center at the entrance to the landfill property. This was completed enough in December to be used during the winter months, and we hope to complete the project in early spring.

The other project we will need to do is build our office and fuel tank shelter on the west end of the highway department building. Funds for this were voted at annual meeting. We replaced the inground gasoline tank with a new double walled tank with all the modern monitoring systems included. The inground diesel fuel tank and the heating oil tank were both removed and replaced with new above ground tanks which we placed in a concrete confinement area located at the west end of our building. This concrete area will also serve as the foundation for the new office. Hopefully we can complete this between winter and spring of 1999. We also installed a new septic system at the highway department during 1998.

I want to thank everyone for your continued support and encouragement, and thank Peter, David and Jerry for being such a multi-talented crew that allows us to do all these varied projects.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard W. Tracy
Highway Superintendent

REPORT OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Fire Department had a quiet year as far as fires go, but it was an active year otherwise. On June 2nd, we had a serious thunderstorm which made lightning strikes in two homes. In September we had a two day mutual aid call for a brush fire in Southampton. On 15 occasions, we responded supporting our medical division to aid with EMT calls.

Some of the other exciting things that happened were that we purchased a new radio component to place on Mt. Tom, so now all our radio signals come off that location. This gives us much better coverage in all parts of town.

In April, we presented a fire safety program at the Elementary School using the County's new Safe Trailer. This is a trailer, which simulates a house, to be used as an education aid. It allows us the opportunity to show safe procedures around cookstoves, other kitchen appliances, fireplaces, candles, electrical fixtures, etc. We practiced emergency procedures for calling 911, escaping from a bedroom window, and maintaining smoke detectors. We also stress the hazards of smoking, both from a health standpoint and in fire safety. Our mini-muster in June was pretty much of a washout. Mike Diggins has constructed a house silhouette for us to use in this type program.

In February, we sponsored a Mass. Fire Academy class on "Protective Breathing and Search and Rescue." Twelve members received certificates from this class.

Mike Diggins, Bill Webster and John Zimmerman received certificates for completing the Hampshire County fire school.

During the year, Wayne Parks resigned from the department and we received Tom Jenkins, Lorrie Gougeon, and William Jablonski as new members.

In May, Ken Blow and Wally Marek took charge of reroofing the old portion of the fire station.

Also in May, we celebrated the 50th year of our department with a dinner and dance at the Northampton Country Club. 117 members and friends enjoyed the evening.

We were awarded a $3000 Safe Grant from the state which was used to purchase supplies and equipment to use in our training and educational programs. These are used primarily with the school, but can be used anywhere. One part of this equipment is a public address system which can be used by other town organizations.

In July, we participated in Williamsburg Fire Department's 150th anniversary celebration by marching in their parade with our E-3 truck, and also winning 2nd place in their Firemen's Muster. We also won 1st place at Chesterfield's 4th of July muster.

In October, we recognized Fire Prevention Week with another program at the Elementary School We have established an agreement with Northampton Fire Department to cover our town foe extrication and rescue services.

I would take this opportunity to thank all the members of the department for their continued dedication and service to the people of Westhampton. It is truly appreciated.

Our activities and calls are listed below:

In service response	3
Structure fires	2
Chimney fires	1
Brush fires	1
False alarms	3
Carbon monoxide	3
Motor vehicle accidents	3
Appliance fires	1
Emergency medical calls	15
Mutual aid calls	2
Total calls	34

Respectfully submitted,

Richard W. Tracy
Fire Chief

WESTHAMPTON EMS
ANNUAL REPORT

Ambulance calls by Response Category	
Medical Emergencies	35
Motor Vehicle Accidents	3
Other	6

As was reported last year, a door-to-door fundraising campaign was held in the winter of 1997-98 to raise money for a new defibrillator. Prudential Insurance Company would match, dollar for dollar, up to $2000.00 of any amount received. Through the generosity of the people of the Town of Westhampton, we raised a little over $12,000. As a result of such a successful campaign, we purchased two (2) new Physio-Control Lifepak® 500 defibrillators. The old defibrillator, purchased in 1989, will be taken out of service in the Fall, when Physio-Control will no longer provide service and parts for it. We now have three defibrillators in service, which is probably the best ratio per population of any town in the area. **But let's hope we don't have to use them.**

We currently have eight (8) EMT's and two (2) first responders trained and certified in the use of the defibrillator. All have met re-certification requirements for 1999.

EMT's Lee Douchkoff, Bob Miller, John Shaw, and Lorrie Gougeon have successfully met all requirements for re-certification as EMT's.

Because the American Heart Association has changed its re-certification requirements for CPR from one to two years, we have not conducted any CPR classes this year. All of you who are currently certified with us will not have to renew until next year. It would be good to be able to have a group or two take CPR this

year so we can have classes on the alternating years, but interest seems to have waned a bit in becoming CPR certified. If there is enough interest, let one of the EMT's know and perhaps we can set up a class.

As of October, 1998, we changed to Easthampton Fire Department for our ambulance provider. This change occurred with no interruption to ambulance service for the citizens of Westhampton. This change has actually resulted in an increase in the quality of care for us as Easthampton responds as a Paramedic Level (ALS) service on each call. We have found that response time is faster as well and the Wesrhampton EMT's get a chance to apply more of their skills and training. We would be remiss, however, not to mention the years of dedicated and excellent service provided to us by the Southampton Fire Department. There was never any question that, if and when needed, Southampton was more than willing to send as much help as was needed and everyone should be grateful for that dedication and commitment.

We continue to enjoy providing a much needed service to the citizens of the town and we hope that you **DO NOT HESITATE TO CALL 911** if you need medical help. We don't mind being bothered (even at 3:00 in the morning). Our feeling is that is better to call and not need us than to need us and not call.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Miller
E.M.S.

REPORT OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

As in previous years, the Police Department has continued to provide the residents of Westhampton with professional and the most expedient service possible. The Department currently has a total of five Officers, of which two officers are Specials available for School functions and detail work. Two additional Officers will be added to the Department in coming months. The Department has continued to support the DARE program, as well as other safety programs in the Elementary School. All Officers have attended mandatory refresher training as well as monthly Association meetings.

Gun permit applications are taken on the 2nd Wednesday of each month between 6:00p.m. and 7:00p.m. at the Town Hall.

I would like to thank the Officers for their unselfish and dedicated service to the Department and the Town of Westhampton.

Police Calls for 1998

Accidents	21	Vandalism	13
Fire/Ambulance assists	9	Missing person	1
Arrests	13	Suspicious car/person	16
Assistance	8	Trespass	4
Housebreaks	0	Summons	31
Larceny	1	Warrants	2
Burglar alarms	39	Assault & battery	2
Stolen car/plate	1	Suicide	0
Animal calls	51	Information calls	538
Domestic violence	9	Sexual assault	0
Drug related	4		

Moneys turned in to the Treasurer

Court fines	$3705.00
Gun permits	$ 567.00
Insurance reports	$ 10.00

Respectfully submitted,

Lawrence R. Lovett
Chief of Police

REPORT OF THE BUILDING INSPECTOR

Permits issued 1998:

One Family	5
Additions	10
Renovations	8
Basement Rooms	0
Above Ground Pool	3
Inground Pool	0
Decks	13
Garages	3
Siding	1
Sheds	6
Signs	0
Windows	3
Reroof	13
Barns	5
Wood Stoves	1
Chimneys	3
Commercial Building	2
Demolition	1
	77

A total of $736.90 was taken in Building Permits for $856,146 of construction costs for building.

Respectfully submitted,

Myron Pietraszkiewicz
Building Inspector

REPORT OF THE ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR

For the year 1997, there were 42 electrical permits issued. My address has changed to: 12 Ireland St Ext., West Chesterfield MA 01084. Telephone 296-4399.

Respectfully submitted,

John Lyons
Electrical Inspector

REPORT OF THE PLUMBING INSPECTOR

During 1998, the office of the Plumbing and Gas Inspector received a total of 17 requests for permits. There were 4 for new homes, 5 for remodeling and 8 for gas piping.

The sum of $620 was collected for permit and inspection fees. $455 of the total collected was for plumbing permits, and $165 was for gas piping permits.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Pichette

REPORT OF THE SANITATION INSPECTOR

There were 21 septic systems, in full or in part, inspected by me in 1998. There were a total of 28 inspections. I still have some paperwork that is not complete. Some people in their houses do not have their Certificate of Compliance (1998 and before). If you had septic system work done and do not have a certificate, or you have questions on Title 5, please call me at 584-0111. There is a $5 fee for extra paperwork

Respectfully submitted,

Stillman G. Brooks
Sanitation Inspector

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL ON AGING

Westhampton seniors enjoyed a very active and successful year in 1998.

In March, the board accepted, with regret, the resignation of Eleanor Miller. Eleanor's enthusiasm and ideas have been a valued contribution to the success of the COA. Charles Ognibene was welcomed as the newly appointed board member.

A special Volunteer Recognition Luncheon was held in April, with entertainment by John Root, the "Music Man" from Amherst. Nearly 100 persons were awarded certificates of appreciation for their help and support of the COA over the years.

Monthly luncheons were held at the church from September through June. These included our Christmas luncheon with the Southampton COA as our guests, and our annual intergenerational luncheon with the fourth graders. This year, grandparents were

invited, which increased attendance to over 80 people. Our annual picnic was held in July at Edgar and Jean Alward's home on Pine Island Lake, with 70 seniors attending.

The COA has purchased a computer with funds from a state incentive grant. It is now installed at the Westhampton Elementary School and we are planning to hold classes starting in 1999 for seniors wishing to learn basic computer skills. Many thanks to Don MacLeod for his help and support for this endeavor.

The Hilltown Elder Network (HEN) program was restarted in 1998, and has provided light housework, yard work and other chores for nine seniors this year.

Our contract with the Franklin Regional Transit Authority continues to allow us to provide free transportation for town elders on a one-on-one basis. Many thanks to Edward Montague, dispatcher, and the six volunteers who drove 1891 miles and gave 233 volunteer hours in 1998.

Our home repair program has been augmented this year by a large state grant awarded to the "Hilltown Consortium." Westhampton seniors are eligible to receive this assistance, and should call Edgar Alward, coordinator, if small home repairs are needed.

The COA continues to support the SALT Council. Approximately 150 street numbers were installed in 1998, with a few more to be done in the spring. Numbers are still available, and SALT urges residents to request them, as they are of great assistance to all emergency services. Emergency porch lights and refrigerator magnets for medical information are also still available.

The SALT committee sponsored a "Concert on the Green" in June, but rain forced us to move into the Town Hall. The cookout by the EMTs was rained out, but the mini-muster for kids was held by the fire department, in spite of the weather.

Other services included our quarterly COA newsletter, take out meals each month, blood pressure readings, get-well or friendship cards, and our Neighbor to Neighbor program which provides companionship for home bound elders. Our 3 times weekly exercise class continues, with an average of eight people attending

The annual flu clinic in October provided 99 flu shots and 5 pneumonia shots.

Three fund raising events in 1998 included a Potato Bar supper in May, a food sale in November, and assisting the Westhampton Singing Society with their "Cabaret" in June. This made possible two bus trips, each attracting 30 to40 seniors. The first trip, in June, was to the Botanical Gardens in Stockbridge, MA. The second, in October, took us to the Fruitlands Museum in Harvard, MA.

We wish to thank the Westhampton Elementary School, the Hampshire Regional High School, and the Westhampton Congregational Church for the use of their facilities. Many thanks also to the town officials and the townspeople for their support. Lastly, we appreciate the enthusiasm of the seniors, themselves, whose willingness to help makes these programs possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Kelley, Chair
Terri Derouin
Olga Hathaway
Sally Lawton
Louise Marchand
Mervyn Morse
Charles Ognibene

REPORT OF THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The Blacksmith Shop Museum was open to the public on Sunday afternoons from 2:00 to 4:00P.M. from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. The hosts were members of the Historical Commission and Friends of the Blacksmith Shop.

The 6th Annual Westhampton Blacksmith Shop and Museum Chuck Wagon was held on August 15th. Outlook Farm's Brad Morse put on a wonderful meal for all who attended. Our thanks to everyone who helped make the event a great success.

We also wish to thank those who donated items to the museum this past year and for their continued support.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Braastad
Irene Montague
Dan Krug
Bev Derouin
Tom Jenkins

REPORT OF THE RECREATION COMMISSION

In fiscal year 1999, the Recreation Commission set up athletic fields at the elementary school. Combining resources with the school, full-size and portable soccer goals were purchased and installed. The new goals allow for field rotation that minimized overuse.

The Memorial Day Softball game was well attended, more children every year. Perhaps next year two games to accommodate everyone.

The annual ski trip went to Brodie Mt., and, despite a lack of natural snow, the skiing and weather were very good.

New for the Recreation Commission this year will be camping as a group at Indian Hollow Campground in nearby Chesterfield, dates and times to follow.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Prickett
Chris Norris
Mark Thornhill

REPORT OF THE CULTURAL COUNCIL

The Westhampton Cultural Council received $3300.00 from the State Cultural Council to fund grant applications for FY 1999. Additional funding sources included: 1) $500 which was allocated by the Town at Town Meeting, 2) $500 from the State under the Matching Incentive Award, 3) $72.60 - money from interest in the Cultural Council bank account and 4) $350 - money previously awarded, but not claimed, for a total of $4722.60.

26 applications were received and 10 were approved by the Council at a meeting held on December 1, 1998. The State Cultural Council is expected to confirm these awards in March. Herewith the grant applications approved for FY 1999.

1. Westhampton Singing Society for a spring cabaret and a Christmas concert	360.00
2. Friends of the Williamsburg Libraries for Hilltown Sunday Music Series.	40.00

3. Henry Lappen for a juggling performance and workshop.	325.00
4. Aubrey Waynelovich for a 2 hour Dixieland concert.	400.00
5. Susan Wallace for the Hampshire Art Project	490.00
6. Friends of the Westhampton Memorial Library-Summer Reading Program	1000.00
7. John Root to present a Swingtime Sextet School Fund-raiser and Swing Dance	557.60
8. Friends of the Westhampton Elementary School Drama Club	750.00
9. Westhampton Memorial Library for Museum Memberships	250.00
10. Joanne Lucia for Storytelling thru Sculpture	500.00
11. Administrative Funds	50.00

A cultural council survey was conducted through the spring and summer of 1998. Music, art and theater were the highest vote getters. Most people surveyed had attended numerous LCC sponsored functions, such as band concerts, library reading programs, and various elementary school presentations.

When asked where to allocate funds, there was a major split with 50% wanting funds to be distributed at the 50% level for schools and 50% for the general public. The other 50% wanted 75% for school and 25% for the general public.

As usual, the council tries to even-handedly distribute funds, but it is very difficult as we receive many worthy requests. Community input is critical to our funding process. Please let any Cultural Council member know how we can better serve you and the community.

We are always looking for new members and fresh ideas. If you wish to serve on this committee, please contact the Selectmen.

The Council is accepting grant applications for fiscal year 2000.

The deadline is October 15, 1999.

Respectfully submitted,

Karla E. Stefansson, Chair
Janet Babcock
Ron Baer
Robbie Merrington
Eleanor Miller
Victoria Yoshen
Ann Tracy

REPORT OF THE WESTHAMPTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Due to the support of town residents, the Westhampton Memorial Library continues to expand its offerings and work toward seeing the long-range plan completed in 1997 bear fruit.

The library is overseen by a six-member board of trustees, elected by town residents to serve for three-year terms. Cynthia Tillson, who had served on the board since 1989 and served as chair since 1995, chose not to run for another term this past year. Her efforts on behalf of the library were outstanding, especially her shepherding of the long-range plan. We deeply appreciate her years of service.

The current trustees are Dorothy Miller, elected in 1975; Debra Dutkiewicz, 1993; Louise Montague, 1995; Victoria Yoshen and Margot Cleary, 1997; and Hilary Nolan, 1998. The officers are Margot Cleary, chair; Debra Dutkiewicz, secretary; Dorothy Miller, treasurer; and Hilary Nolan, Friends liaison.

The trustees meet in the library on the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. Their duties include overseeing the budget, the library director and the upkeep of the building.

The library is staffed by Carolyn Keating, director, who oversees daily operations with a high degree of professionalism. She now works 30 hours per week, a schedule which has allowed her to tackle much-needed administrative tasks such as computerizing our financial records, seeing to collection development, and attending workshops. The children's librarian and custodian is Betsy Koziol. Mary Ann Sarafin was hired as clerk in April. In addition to our paid staff, the library has a group of volunteers who have taken on important tasks such as staffing Saturday morning hours, assisting with the summer reading program, checking out books, helping with the bookmobile deliveries and maintaining the gardens. We have also been fortunate to have nature exhibits provided by Westhampton resident, Laurie Sanders.

As always, we are grateful to the people who support the library through donations of cash or other gifts.

There are 700 card holders at the library. Total circulation for 1998 was 4,699 books, 3,760 videotapes, 1,286 magazines and 987 books on audiotape. In 1998, patrons received 357 books or other materials through the interlibrary loan program.

A new computer, funded by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, was installed in September. Patrons are able to use the library's computer to gain access to the Internet.

The children's librarian organized 48 programs for children in 1998, including regular preschool story hours and after-school craft sessions. This year's Summer Reading program had 45 children reading a total of 412 books. This program was supported in part by a grant from the Westhampton Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

The trustees have a commitment to expanding the library's outreach in the town. To that end, the library hosted an exhibit of art works by students at Hampshire Regional High School, and began a monthly adult reading group. The Conservation Commission has also met at the library.

The Friends of the Library, headed by Cindy Tillson, increased their activities significantly in 1998. The group initiated a quarterly newsletter sent to all homes in Westhampton and sponsored a highly successful plant sale this spring, which they hope to make an annual event. The proceeds from the sale enabled the Friends to provide the library with funds for a computer printer and other items.

An immediate concern of the trustees in 1999 is the library exterior, which needs scraping and painting. We are committed to seeing to it that the building remains an attractive asset to the town.

The Westhampton Memorial Library's budget request for the coming year was determined after careful examination of our goals and needs as outlined in our long range plan. We are hopeful that the town will continue to support the services that the library provides to the community.

Respectfully submitted,

Margot Cleary, Chair

REPORT OF THE LIBRARY TREASURER

July 1, 1997 - June 30, 1998

TOWN ACCOUNT

Income July 1, 1997 thru June 30, 1998			
Town Appropriation	18821.23		
Dog Refund	368.77		
Voted Town Appropriation		19190.00	
LIG		1250.00	
MEG		528.00	
Non-resident offset		78.00	
Total Library Budget			21046.00

Expenditures - July 1, 1997 - June 30, 1998

Books	4947.41	
Magazines	318.49	
Videos	12.00	
Supplies	138.12	
Director	10551.93	
Children's Librarian	1336.11	
Clerk	839.57	
Custodian	638.96	
Fuel	473.74	
Telephone	235.91	
Electricity	814.47	
Maintenance	305.00	
Computer	-	
Dues/Meetings	15.00	
Repairs	-	
Total Expenditures		21046.00

June 30, 1998 No Balance

TRUSTEES ACCOUNT

Balance June 30, 1997		
Easthampton Savings	8788.60	
Florence Now Account	753.33	
Florence Savings -Spec. Acct.	756.17	
Worm Account	5928.96	
HP Miller Account	12016.39	
Balance June 30, 1997		28243.45
Income- per cash book July 1, 1997-June 30, 1998		
Copy Machine		203.00
Video Account		20.00
Misc. Book Account		244.06
Dr. R. Caldwell		35.00
Dr. Sandra Eagleton		100.00
John Zimmerman		75.00
Raily		20.00
Burzell		50.00
Roy and Dot Miller		25.00
Books-Bay State Medical		92.86
Cultural Arts- Friends		750.00
		1614.92
To special account- in Memory		
Winnie Bishop		1965.00
Interest		
HP Miller Account	378.22	
Florence Now Account	8.01	
Florence-Special Account	63.48	
Worm Account	207.63	
Easthampton MM	233.51	
		890.85

Total Income		
	Balance	28243.15
	Income	1614.92
	Memorial Gifts	1965.00
	Interest	890.85
		32714.22

Expenditures		
Books	127.65	
Magazines	46.47	
Videos	225.97	
Computer-phone	232.13	
Supplies	232.35	
Telephone	.47	
Maintenance	310.84	
Electric	24.27	
Friends' Programs	710.00	
Dues/Mileage	16.64	
Repairs	185.80	
Misc Gifts	332.25	
Equipment	59.35	
		2698.79

Balance in Trustees Account	30015.43

Cash Balance June 30, 1998

HP Miller Account	12275.03
Worm Account	6122.58
Florence Savings	2773.50
Florence Now Account	837.81
Easthampton MM Account	8006.51

Balance in Cash book	30015.43

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Special Account - Memorial Account

Balance July 1, 1997	252.86
Interest	12.94
Balance June 30, 1998	265.80
Anonymous gift 11/97	5000.00
Interest	163.00
Balance June 30, 1998	5163.00

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothy M. Miller
Treasurer

REPORT OF THE WESTHAMPTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The Westhampton School Committee meets at the Westhampton Elementary School at 7:30 every third Tuesday of the month. The Committee members are: Jonathan Kahane, Chair; Maureen Dempsey, Vice Chair; and Kathleen O'Connor, Secretary. Jonathan Kahane represents Westhampton on the Administrative Advisory Committee and also the Regional Education Business Alliance. Maureen Dempsey represents Westhampton on the Board of Governors of the Hampshire Educational Collaborative. Kathleen O'Connor is the Committee's local delegate to the Hampshire Regional School Committee.

Under the state's Education Reform Law, the Westhampton School Committee acts as a board of directors for the Town's elementary school. Its primary responsibilities are to set local educational policy and to hire, supervise and evaluate the

Superintendent. The Superintendent, in turn, is responsible to hire and supervise the Principal, and the Principal has the same responsibility for the building staff. General spending levels, Statewide educational policy and, to an increasing extent, the curriculum, are established by the State's Board of Education. The Committee remains responsible for the budget, contract negotiations with the teachers association and for local policy decisions.

Educational reform has increased the financial resources available from the State to the elementary school. For the year FY 99/00 coming up, we may be able to increase the adjustment counselor time in school from 1 1/2 days to 2 days in school. The art teacher will also have an increase in time from 15 hours to 20 hours a week.

The elementary school is being used for many after-school activities. There is an after-school band program available for a small fee. The Drama Club is also available to students for a one time fee. The gym is used for indoor soccer and basketball. The Council on Aging is now using the library for housing a few computers for computer classes for their group. The Committee encourages use of the building by the Westhampton community.

Westhampton Elementary School is fortunate to have volunteers who donate their time and energy to the school. The PTO has once again dedicated their year to raise funds for school programs and field trips.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen O'Connor, Secretary
Jonathan Kahane, Chair
Maureen Dempsey, Vice Chair

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT - OCTOBER 1, 1998

October 1 enrollemnt at the Elementary School:

GRADE	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Preschool	0	15	16
Kindergarten	19	16	23
Grade 1	19	19	15
Grade 2	27	22	20
Grade 3	23	24	22
Grade 4	23	25	23
Grade 5	25	26	25
Grade 6	25	22	24
Westhampton Total	161	169	168

October 1 enrollment of students in other elementary settings:

Charter Schools	0	0	3
Schools of choice	0	0	0
Home-schooled	0	1	0
Private schools	4	13	13

October 1 enrollment of students in secondary schools:

Hampshire Regional	111	114	115
Vocational Schools	11	12	15
Private schools	12	17	17
Total Students K-12	299	326	331

Personnel employed by the School Department in 1998:

Elizabeth Besser	Music Teacher
Jennifer Regan	Aide
Emilie Woodward	Adjustment Counselor
Jennifer Thomas	Aide

Personnel who left the employ of the School Department in 1998:

Linda Hyjek Aide Robin Kirkpatrick Aide
Susan Theberge Adjustment Counselor

WESTHAMPTON ELEMENTARY
FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Elementary Appropriation	682349.00
Transfer for School Choice	9202.00
Total Budget	691551.00
Total Expenses	-687595.84
Total Forward to Fiscal 1999	3575.69
Balance closed to Revenue	379.47

VOCATIONAL

Vocational Appropriation	129190.00
Expended transportation	-14940.00
Expended tuition	-94289.66
Total Expenditures	-109229.66
Balance closed to Revenue	19960.34

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
EXPENDITURES

Principal Office	55710.00
Regular Teaching	402353.84
Special Education	102367.00
School Comm/Central Office	26686.00
Support Psych Adj Health Library	13038.00
Custodial/Maintenance	39752.00
Insurance/Retirement	1715.00
Transportation	27420.00
Food Service	8222.00
School Choice	10332.00
	687595.84

HAMPSHIRE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - 1998

It has been our priority to coordinate programs and opportunities for students among the five districts. During 1998 we kept pace with trends and the advantages of using technology in teaching and made great strides in strengthening ties in our school communities between parents, residents and taxpayers. Following is a review of 1998 activities and events in each of our districts.

The **Chesterfield-Goshen Regional** District opened its New Hingham Regional Elementary School in September 1998. Students, town and state officials, Building Committee members, legislators, and a representative from the Historical Society in Hingham, Mass. took part in a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Many volunteers contributed hours of time to move school equipment and teacher belongings out of the former Davenport School and Goshen Center School buildings, which have since been renovated for much-needed town office space. Another group of parents and community volunteers installed a wonderful playground apparatus at no additional cost to taxpayers.

The fully-equipped $3.7 million dollar, 33,000 square foot school is located on a 42 acre site on Smith Road in Chesterfield. Its features include a library-media center with automated book inventory and computer work stations, computer links to all classrooms, art and music rooms, adequate office space, and a new kitchen and cafeteria. Eight classrooms are occupied, with two more available for future expansion. Community groups also use the full-size gymnasium for afternoon and evening activities. A new preschool program provides services in the district for 3 and 4-year old students with special needs, and teachers have been trained in Responsive Classroom techniques to improve classroom

management skills at all grade levels.

Instruction at **Hampshire Regional** High School has been strengthened during 1998 with the addition of faculty in core subject areas and part-time positions in foreign language and guidance. Results from the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System tests have been very helpful in shaping changes and improvements in the curriculum. Students who were tenth graders in May 1998 scored particularly well compared to their peers in other schools.

Support of the five towns for the 1998-99 budget made it possible to eliminate student athletic fees, some as high as $130 per sport, and helped underwrite some non-athletic extracurricular activities as well. The enrollment of more than 30 students from neighboring districts at Hampshire under the School of Choice program has offset part of the tuition expenses for students choosing to attend charter schools.

A group of counselors and staff worked with the principal to prepare a "crisis management plan" for use in coping with school safety matters and emergency situations involving individual students. Membership in REBA- the Regional Education and Business Alliance- has been productive. Some members of the School Council have been trained by REBA in the use and interpretation of data to bring about school improvement, and a mentor-training program for experienced faculty to work with beginning teachers has been established with help from REBA.

Gradual enrollment growth at Hampshire continues to be a cause for concern. A ten-person building committee was appointed in 1998 to study the economic growth potential of each member town in the regional district and recommend a course of action about whether to add and expand, as well as renovate the 27-year-old High School facility. A consulting firm was hired to research and interpret demographic indicators and suggest a plan of action to the Building Committee.

Steady enrollment growth continues at the William E. Norris School in **Southampton**, at a rate of about one classroom's worth of students each year. A new sixth grade teacher was hired in 1998, and two more regular classroom teachers will be needed by the 1999-2000 school year. It is hoped that the technology classroom can be reopened with a teacher so as to take full advantage of the school building's resources. Results from a pilot Work Sampling program indicate there are benefits in analyzing the quality and substance of student learning using authentic measures of their accomplishment.

In cooperation with the municipal officials, a special maintenance reserve account was created with funds leftover from the school construction project. These funds will be kept available for use in offsetting unanticipated maintenance needs in the future.

This year's annual theme in at the **Westhampton** Elementary School is "Story." Teachers have engaged in learning Responsive Classroom techniques to strengthen and support learning, improve classroom management, and aid students in learning positive ways to interact with others. The "Reading Recovery" program has offered needy first-graders timely support for learning at a critical time in their development.

The school is very much a community center after school, evenings and weekends, used by youth and adult civic groups. There is still concern looming for future space needs in Westhampton. Enrollment in kindergarten through sixth grade is nearly 160, and the preschool program offered on site has as many as 18 other students.

Williamsburg schools have received three competitive technology grants in order to be a "Lighthouse District." These funds are used to support professional growth and development among professionals from more than 60 other school districts and collaboratives across the state in integrating use of technology in

education. Two Williamsburg teachers were also honored as recipients of grants to be used for professional development with teachers from around the country. Susan Smith received a grant for "Promoting Mathematical Thinking through the use of Technology" and Karen Schweitzer received a grant for "Creating Digital Archives for Presentation, Reflection and Assessment." The school's foreign language program has been broadened. Kindergarten teacher Morning Star Chenven has implemented instruction in Spanish in grades K-2. Sixth grade teacher Lisa Peloquin engages students in the study of French at that grade level.

The sum of $50,000 was appropriated by residents to study space needs and projected usefulness of the Helen E. James and Anne T. Dunphy School facilities in accommodating students in the future. Proposals were sought from prospective consultants, and the New England School Development Council, NESDEC, was hired to gather demographic data about the town's growth, and to recommend alternatives for remodeling, renovation and possible building expansion.

The Superintendent's office serves five separate school districts and school committees (Hampshire, Chesterfield-Goshen, Southampton, Westhampton and Williamsburg) and is located at the High School building. Technological advancements have allowed a reduction of central office staff to four administrators, four secretaries, and part-time, grant-funded coordinators for K-12 Health Education and Preschool programs. All office computers, upgraded to a Pentium level, are Y2K compliant and interconnected with an office server. The District also has a web site and home page, just as the schools do.

Personnel record-keeping for nearly 250 employees, and budget functions for each district are centrally coordinated for efficiency and expedience. The Business Manager and Superintendent develop annual budgets with each principal and School Committee,

then communicate frequently with members of each town's Finance Committee in explaining and presenting the local school and regional budgets. The five budgets collectively total $10.75 million dollars. In 1998 central administrators applied for and received more that $750,000 in state, federal and private-source grant funds to financially assist local schools and school districts. In addition, grants for energy rate reductions will have been secured to reduce utility costs for each school. Some towns have benefited from increased state aid over the past few years to bring their school district up to a foundation level of spending.

Curriculum development and alignment of each school's program of instruction with the state curriculum frameworks is also coordinated by the central administration. A Connected Math Program was adopted to serve students in grades 6 through 8, and funded by a grant. The Assistant Superintendent and Director of Pupil Personnel work closely with the five principals to interpret statewide student assessment results, create alternative support programs for students, and to improve the overall quality of instruction at each school site.

Delegates from the five school committees meet regularly with the five teacher association presidents and principals as part of REBA - the Regional Business and Education Alliance - to strengthen communication and support school improvement.

Respectfully submitted,

William G. Erickson
Superintendent

REPORT OF THE HAMPSHIRE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Compared to the previous year when school opened in September in the middle of a fiscal crisis, the 1998-1999 year has been financially stable. We hired additional teachers to reduce the very large class sizes of September 1997. We reinstated funding for extracurricular activities this year, and we eliminated athletic fees. Our 1999-2000 budget submitted to the five towns this spring includes further staff required because of the enrollment growth of the 1990s, increased funds for maintenance of the building and grounds, and reinstatement of the excess and deficiency stabilization fund recommended by our financial auditors.

The Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System student examinations in science, mathematics and English were given last spring in grades 4, 8 and 10. Results were announced in December 1999. We are using data from these tests to assess our curriculum, and to design programs to help students whose performance is low. Beginning with a graduating class of 2003, each student must pass the 10th grade tests to be eligible for a Massachusetts high school diploma; 10th graders will take these high-stakes tests in Spring 2001.

Several years ago the school committee initiated a long-range study of the physical plant. A select committee presented its Building Needs Report in Spring 1997. An architect reviewed the report and outlined major renovations that they would require to address the identified needs. We formally appointed a building committee this year, and officially informed the Massachusetts School Building Assistance Bureau that we contemplate a project. We commissioned the New England School Development Council to prepare a demographic survey of the five towns and to make projections of school populations. We have included architect fees for schematic plans in the 1999-2000 budget. The towns and the townspeople will be kept informed as this project develops.

We continue as an active participant in the Pioneer Valley Regional Education and Business Alliance, planning with others for our educational future. Our school is moving ahead with its TechPrep and technology curricula, with its School-to Work program, with strengthened instruction in world languages, with greater emphasis on writing across all curriculum areas, and with focused transitional programs to help students to move from elementary school to middle school, and from middle school to high school. We hope that Hampshire Regional School will continue to be a forward-looking school of which all people in the five towns can be proud.

Respectfully submitted,

George Fleck, Chair
Hampshire Regional School Committee

1998 SCHOOL REPORT FOR HAMPSHIRE REGIONAL DISTRICT

Student enrollment by town, as of October 1, 1998:

Grade	Chesterfield	Goshen	Southampton	Westhampton	Williamsburg	Totals
7	11	8	60	22	34	135
8	21	20	71	29	27	168
9	14	9	77	13	19	132
10	21	12	78	22	22	155
11	13	5	71	16	15	120
12	15	9	60	11	21	116
Other	1	1	7	6	6	21
Totals	96	64	424	119	144	847

Assessment Percentages by town:

	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Chesterfield	10.511	10.701	10.993	11.260	11.436
Goshen	6.379	6.443	6.569	6.802	7.045
Southampton	48.713	49.219	49.674	50.039	50.161
Westhampton	15.187	15.044	14.441	13.94	13.917
Wiliamsburg	19.21	18.592	18.322	17.959	17.440

Personnel Employed by the District during 1998:

David Aultman	Custodian
Gregory Hungerford	Aide
Mary O'Reilly	Foreign Language Teacher
Julie Holt	Music Teacher
Starr Adams	Aide
Liza Knowlton	Foreign Language Teacher
Ted Hale	Special Education Teacher
Karen Pawlishen	Physical Education Teacher
Eric Scammons	Business Tech. Teacher

Personnel who left the employ of the District in 1998:

Herbert Montebello	Social Studies Teacher
David Grills	Physical Education Teacher
Carl Hartig	Business Teacher
Patrick Mullen	Custodian
Mark Klerowski	Custodian
Laurie Garcia	Spanish Teacher
Patricia Steph	Supt. Office Secretary
Karen Pardee	Spanish Teacher
Laura Figgie	Aide

Based upon combined preschool, special education, vocational school and regular day student enrollment as of October 1, the five cooperating school systems share the cost of employing the Superintendent and central office staff.

Percent share, by District

District	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Chest/Goshen K-6	10.6	9.1	10.5
Southampton, PK-6	27.1	26.8	29.1
Westhampton, K-6	9.1	8.8	9.1
Williamsburg, PK-6	11.9	13.6	12.0
Hampshire Reg. 7-12	41.3	41.6	39.2

HAMPSHIRE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

REPORT OF THE TREASURER - FISCAL 1998

REVENUES

Assessments	
Chesterfield	346006
Goshen	218707
Southampton	1740019
Westhampton	521600
Williamsburg	635437
Total Assessments	3461769
Intergovernmental	
Chapter 70	1586817
Transportation	210383
Foundation reserve	132000
School Choice	55472
Total Intergovernmental	1984672
Interest and Other	
Interest	25239
Other	9940
Total Interest & Other	35179
TOTAL REVENUES	5481620

EXPENDITURES

Administration	127641
Instructional	2898322
SPED instructional	411180
Support services	52996
Pupil Transportation	315723
SPED pupil transportation	85318
Student body activities	8661
Operation and Maintenance	363272
Retirement	129851
Employee insurance	363276
Other insurance	22902
Debt service	110747
Programs with other districts	596126
School choice/charter school tuition	74581
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	5560596
Transfer to Special Revenue Funds	2216
TOTAL EXPENDIUTRES AND TRANSFERS	5562812
Excess of Revenues over Expenditures/Transfers	(81192)
FUND BALANCE - BEGINGNING OF YEAR	71662
FUND DEFICIT - END OF YEAR	(9530)

Respectfully submitted,

James R. Freebourn, Treasurer

SALARIES

Fiscal 1999

All figures are annual unless otherwise noted.

ELECTED OFFCIALS		
Board of Selectman	Chairman	1200
	Others	1000
Board of Assessors	Chairman	1200
	Others	1000
Board of Health	Each (+$18/perc)	300
Town Clerk		5000
Tax Collector		6000 plus fees
Treasurer		8000
Auditor		150
Moderator		150
School Committee	Chairman	180
	Others	150
APPOINTED OFFICIALS		
Accounting Officer		8000
Veterans Agent		550
Selectmen's Secretary		2562
Assessor's Secretary		975
Clerk, Bd. Registrars		60
Building Inspector		3500
Wiring , Plumbing & Sanitation Inspectors		15/inpsection
Election Workers		5.25/hour
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT		
Grade1A		14.43/hour
Grade 1		14.03/hour
Superintendent		37336
LANDFILL Caretaker		7.00
LIBRARY Director		12.50/hour
	Children's Librarian	8.00/hour
	Clerk	7.00/hour
	Custodian	7.50/hour
TOWN HALL Custodian		7.50/hour
POLICE CHIEF		11/hour
Officers - Regular		6-10/hour
	Court	15/hour
FIRE CHIEF		825
CEMETERY CARETAKER		4000

PROPOSED BUDGET FISCAL 2000

DESCRIPTION	VOTED F1999	PROPOSED F2000
GENERAL GOVERNMENT		
Counsel Fees	7500	10000
Moderator	150	150
Selectmen Salary	3200	3200
Selectmen Expense	3500	3500
Selectmen Secretary	2562	2562
Auditor Salary	150	150
Accounting Officer Salary	8000	8000
Accounting Office Expense	950	980
Assessor Salary	3200	6200
Assessor Expense	5405	3180
Assessor Secretary	975	1150
Treasurer Salary	8000	8000
Treasurer Expense	3110	3000
Tax Collector Salary	6000	6150
Tax Collector Expense	3100	3200
Town Clerk Salary	5000	5000
Town Clerk Expense	2491	2570
Clerk, Board of Registrars	60	60
Conservation Commission	200	260
Planning Board Expense	200	200
HIGHWAYS		
Highway Administration	2860	2860
Highway Salaries	118500	125500
Holiday Pay	4082	4283
Vacation Pay	4562	4810
Bridges & Railings	500	500
Highway Materials	50000	100000
Road Machinery	20000	20000
Road Machinery Fuel	10800	11300
Snow Removal	42000	42000
Road Machinery Buildings	4100	5500
Pickup	30000	0
Snowplow	7000	0
Highway Office	6700	0
Loader Debt	27040	20792
SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES		
Hampshire Regional HS (Article 4)	520698	630574
Vocational (Article 6)	151500	146316
Elementary School (Article 5)	730778	782460

School Committee Salary	480	480
Library	33540	40552
VETERANS		
Veterans Expense	100	100
Veterans Agent Salary	550	550
Memorial Day	100	100
Cultural Council	500	500
CEMETERIES		
Cemetery Salary	2900	4000
PROTECTION OF PERSONS & PROP		
Police Department	27000	30200
Police Cruiser (Art. 12)	0	23865
Constable	1	1
Fire Chief	825	825
Fire Department	8000	5400
Fire Equipment (Art. 13)		55000
Emergency Medical Services	4200	300
Inspector Salary	6300	6500
Civil Defense	1	1
Animal Inspector	500	500
Dog Officer	1	1
HEALTH & SANITATION		
Hilltown Resource Mgt. Coop.(Art. 9)	4648	4648
Board of Health Salary	3900	3900
Board of Health Expense	24302	34330
Transfer Station Debt		3168
DEBT & INTEREST		
Interest Short Term Debt	1	1
UNCLASSIFIED		
Insurance & Bonds	31000	31000
Town Offices	12100	12100
Council on Aging	1000	1000
Recreation	1000	2000
Historical	200	200
County Retirement	39721	53817
Council of Governments		9769
Unemployment (Article 8)	7600	8400
Group Insurance	68000	70000
Medicare	6000	7000
Land Damage	1	1
Reserve Fund	5000	5000
TOTAL	2131436	2388616

ARTICLES ON THE WARRANT
MAY 8, 1999

ARTICLE 1: To hear and act on all reports presented at said meeting.

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to leave the care of the highways in charge of the Selectmen.

ARTICLE 3: To vote in compliance with Section 108, Chapter 41 G.L. which requires that salaries of elected officials be fixed by vote of the Town.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money to meet Westhampton's share of Hampshire Regional School District's assessment for Fiscal 2000, or any lesser sum as may be certified by the District, provided that any such certification shall be made prior to the establishment of the tax rate, and to meet this appropriation, a sum of money be raised by taxation, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for the Elementary School, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for Vocational school expenses, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, such sum of money as may be necessary to defray Town charges in the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide a sum of money to hold in anticipation of unemployment benefits for Town employees in accordance with Chapter 151A of the General Laws of Massachusetts.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for Westhampton Town's share of expenses of continued participation in the Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative, or take any other action in relation thereto. $4648

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to appropiate a sum of money from Free Cash to reduce the tax rate, or take any other action in relation thereto. $32000 from F.C.

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money from available funds, due to the town as Chapter 90 Highway funds, from the Transportation Bond Issue, voted in the Acts of 1999,or take any other action in relation thereto. $148,948

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, authorize the Treasurer, with approval of the Selectmen, to borrow, or otherwise provide a sum of money for a cruiser for the Police Department, or take any other action in relation thereto. $23865

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, authorize the Treasurer, with approval of the Selectmen, to borrow, or otherwise provide a sum of money for equipment for the Fire Department, or take any other action in relation thereto. $55,000 $60000 Amended

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to grant and set a cost of living adjustment to increase the exemption granted to certain senior citizens and surviving spouses and minors under General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 17D in Fiscal Year 2000, or take any other action in relation thereto. $175/yr. 2.3 to increase ↑ apply to O. assessors

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to amend Section 4, Voting on Motions at Town Meetings, of the General Bylaws by adding the following sub-section 1-4-1 a., or taken any other action in relation thereto.

1-4-1 a. When a two-thirds vote is required by statute, the Moderator may declare the vote to be a two thirds vote without a count, provided, however, that if the vote is immediately questioned, a count shall be taken.

NOTE: This is a preliminary list of the articles for the Annual Town meeting; it is subject to change and/or additions. The final warrant will be posted at least seven days before the Annual Meeting, May 8th.

PLEASE BRING THIS REPORT WITH YOU TO THE ANNUAL MEETING.

Recess to June 21 2:45 P.M.

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